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MONDAY,
November 20, 1950

THE JERUSALEM POST

PRICE: 30 PRUTA
VOL. XXVI No. 7410

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Column One By David Courtney

LIBERTY exists as long as there is someone to fight for it. One or a score of men here and there within a state is as much as liberty may hope for to guard its spirit and give it militant service.

TOM Hopkinson, editor of "Picture Post," one of the most successful ventures in illustrated journalism this side of the United States, has been given the sack by the paper's millionaire owner, Mr. Hulton, who refused to countenance the publication of articles on the state of affairs in Korea written by James Cameron, who, not long ago, resigned from the "Daily Express" as a protest against that newspaper's mischievous efforts to subject Mr. Strachey to its own brand of "McCarthyism." Cameron is a brilliant journalist and - rare enough in the craft nowadays - a man of intellectual integrity. Hopkinson, his editor, assigned him to Korea, and there he saw the extent of the evil that is being done. His articles were not a criticism of U.N. intervention. They were a frank, objective account of atrocity and tyranny.

It is the view of James Cameron, the journalist, and Tom Hopkinson, the editor, that what is now going on in Korea endangers the moral authority of U.N., corrupts its avowed Korean purpose and risks those who had hoped that the forces opposing aggression would bring something better to their job than the defeat of an enemy. Such views, it was said by Hulton, would play into the hands of Communism. For years, Edward Hulton wisely has left the policy of his newspapers to his proven editors. Perhaps no newspaper owner can do that any longer. Hardly an editor is left who dare give the other side for fear of "playing into the hands of Communism."

THE "New Statesman," clinging to the notions of its Fabian progenitors, continues obstinately and almost alone to play into the hands of Communism. It sees General MacArthur's foot in the latest attempt to embroil China and turn the Korean war into a world war. It reveals that confidential instructions, suggested by Britain and approved by the State Department, were sent to the General begging him to halt his advance at the isthmus and so avoid contact with the Chinese forces, which would be bound to cross the Yalu river in order to screen the Manchurian border and protect the valuable hydro-electric works. Britain, it says, is pledged to support the United Nations, "not the antics of an insolent military politician." These are strong words. Strangely enough, they and the words of the indignant James Cameron have received cautious assent from the London "Times," which picks and chooses its way with stately objectivity and cannot be charged with fellow-travelling.

IN the British parliament, Silverman and a few others stood up courageously the other day and stated that Chamberlain, Home Affairs Minister, with making British liberty look ridiculous by his handling of the World Peace Congress - a performance intended, once again, to avoid playing into the hands of the Communists. The same argument was used in a House of Commons debate initiated by a Conservative and calling for a purge of the school-teaching profession. The Government, in a happy burst of conscience, poured scorn on the proposal. For the conscience is still there, as it still is among certain editors and a few journalists like James Cameron.

Britain Stands Firm on Egypt's Sterling Claims

By George Lichtblau
POST Correspondent

LONDON, Sunday. — The Egyptian delegation, which is due here this week to discuss Egypt's sterling balances, is expected to run into considerable difficulties when it presents its demands for a long-range settlement on terms favourable to Egypt.

In principle, the proposal that a final settlement should be negotiated has been accepted by the British authorities and the talks will proceed on this basis although one of the pre-conditions originally laid down in London, an Anglo-American agreement on the whole future of Britain's sterling balances, has turned out to be illusory. Nothing has come out of the Washington talks on this subject which were begun after devaluation last year and it does not look as though anything will.

The Treasury is, however, still prepared to negotiate a final settlement with Egypt. Where the situation has changed is in respect of the British government's former reluctance to couple political questions with financial questions by presenting counter-claims arising out of the defence of Egypt during the war.

Churchill's Advice
This course has long been urged by Mr. Churchill and now that the Wafd government has adopted an openly hostile attitude in regard to the treaty, it is no longer certain that Conservative advice on this subject will be disregarded.

The Egyptians are, therefore, in all probability in for some shocks. Even if no counter-claims are raised by Britain, the mere fact that American and Canadian backing for a long-term solution of the sterling problem has not been secured, makes it certain that Egypt will be offered less generous terms than heretofore.

In short, if the Egyptians want a final settlement, they will have to scale down their claims.

Anglo-Israeli talks on Israel's remaining sterling balances are expected to start early next month. The amounts in question are no longer large and an agreement similar to that of last February will virtually amount to a final settlement.

ONE GENERAL LESS
General Fud Zadek Pasha, G.O.C. Egyptian troops during the Arab war, has been dismissed from his post, yesterday's Cairo daily, "El Ahran," reports.

With several other officers, he protested last week against the appointment of his junior, Hussein Farid, to be acting Egyptian commander-in-chief.

U.K. ANSWERS EGYPT TODAY
LONDON, Sunday (AP). — The British Cabinet will meet tomorrow to discuss Egyptian demands for an end to the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian treaty and the withdrawal of British troops from the Suez Canal zone.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, is expected to make a statement on the situation either later tomorrow or on Tuesday.

Hussein Kamel Bey, director of the Egyptian propaganda office in America, has stated, according to Cairo Radio, that if Britain refuses to evacuate her troops from the Suez Canal zone, they will meet the same fate as they met in Palestine at the hands of the Jews.

Egypt has just received two submarines from Britain, according to Baghdad radio. Ten heavy bombers are on their way.

37 Ma'abarot To Get Army Aid

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — Sanitation squads, medical teams, engineers and other military personnel are being sent into 37 outlying ma'abarot this week by the Army to help the immigrants prepare for the winter rains.

The immigrants are living in tents which will be in the path of torrents sweeping toward the sea during the rainy months. They were transferred there from immigrant transit camps in an attempt to make them self-supporting.

The immigrants are employed in afforestation, road-building and other public works.

B.G. Promised Help
The Army's action was taken after Rav-Aloof Yigael Yadin, Chief of the General Staff, received reports from area commanders of the plight of the villagers. The C.G.S. then toured some of the camps with the Prime Minister, at which time Mr. Ben Gurion promised that the "ma'abarot" would be given Army aid (as reported in The POST on November 7).

The Army will now supervise the work.

Some 1,000 children between the ages of six to 10 will be moved from the encampments, and they will be cared for by the Army.

Of the 37 ma'abarot, with a total population of 10,000, to come under the care of the Army during the four winter months, 16 are situated in the Jerusalem Corridor, four in the Negev, ten in the plain, three in Samaria and four in Galilee.

There are at present 100 ma'abarot throughout the country under the supervision of the Jewish Agency Absorption and Settlement Departments, with a total population of 50,000.

The 71 ma'abarot not provided for in the Army plan will remain under the care of the Jewish Agency.



Today The Jerusalem Post and the Saad Home Aid Society are launching an appeal for Toys for the Children of the Ma'abarot. The response to a similar appeal last year was encouraging. This year the appeal goes out to all children to part with their prize toys as a Hanukkah present for the children of the camps.

New toys and cash are, of course, gratefully accepted.

Gifts should be sent to the offices of The Jerusalem Post, 9 Rehov Hahavazelet, Jerusalem; 52 Nahlat Benyamin, Tel Aviv; and 1 Rehov Khayata, Haifa.

(See Editorial, — Page 4)

Silver, Neumann Hail G.Z. Victory

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Sunday, (JNA). — Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, in a message sent to the Israel General Zionists, today called upon the Progressive Party to re-unite with the parent body. The message congratulated the General Zionists on their "extraordinary achievement in the municipal elections."

Predicting that the election results were certain to have a "salutary effect" in Israel and in the Zionist Organization generally, Dr. Silver said they "reinforce the position recently taken by the executive of the Z.O.A. in reasserting its close and fraternal relations with the General Zionists in Israel."

In New York, Dr. Emanuel Neumann said the municipal election results represented a "turning point in the political evolution of Israel. Its citizens have shown remarkable maturity by establishing the General Zionists as a great liberal centre party and giving it a clear mandate to strengthen the State by steering a middle course."

He hoped that the Progressive would now "see the futility" of maintaining a separate existence as a "splinter party."

REFUGEE FUND URGES IMMEDIATE SUPPORT
LAKE SUCCESS, Sunday. — (UP). The U.N. Advisory Committee on financial affairs urged yesterday measures to ensure a prompt increase in the contributions of member states to the Palestine Refugee Relief Fund.

In a report to the Assembly, the committee proposed the convening, during the current Assembly session, of a special meeting of member states at which formal commitments would be made to the fund.

Firm contributions have so far been made only by Israel, Bolivia, Canada, Dominica Republic, Egypt, France, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and the U.S.

Federal Europe Scrapes Vote In Committee

STRASBOURG, Sunday. — The General Affairs Committee of the European Assembly voted 11 to ten today in favour of the immediate federation of Europe — with or without Britain. There were four abstentions and three members were absent.

Full Assembly approval of any federal European pact would require a two-thirds majority of the 125 members. With a mere one vote majority in the 28-member Committee, the federalists have only a bare chance of pushing their demands through the current session of the 15-nation Assembly which opened here yesterday.

M. Henri Tietgen, France, accused Britain of having been the chief obstacle to action in the Assembly's committee of ministers.

The Italian Foreign Minister, Count Sforza, warned the Assembly today that it "must move forward slowly towards European federation or face the fate of becoming just a miserable peninsula of Asia."

He urged cooperation between Europe and the Americans.

(AP, Reuter, UP)

ITALY STEPS UP LAND DIVISION

ROME, Sunday. (UP). — The Italian government yesterday seized nearly 300 square miles, (768,000 dunams) of private property in the La Sila zone of Southern Italy to push forward its land reform programme. Peasant agitation for better wages and more work has been spreading in the north.

The expropriation order was the biggest yet issued in the government's programme under which idle or woefully used private property will be allotted to landless peasants.

CANTERBURY BACKS PLAN FOR OLD CITY

SYDNEY, Sunday, (JNA). — The best solution for Jerusalem is to place the Old City and its surrounding area under international control leaving the new city alone, the Archbishop of Canterbury said here today.

Dr. Fisher said in an address that, on Christian grounds, there should be no objection to German migration to Australia. On the other hand, he said that "we must condemn anti-Semitism as the work of the devil, like other outbreaks on irrational racial grounds."

U.S. Troops Close In on Border; Guerrillas Spreading in South

Advancing U.N. Tanks Unnerve Defenders Before Kapsan

By Tom Stone, A.P. Correspondent

WITH THE U.S. SEVENTH IN KOREA, Sunday. — The aggressive Seventeenth Combat team stormed through feeble enemy resistance to within 21 air kms., or 30 road kms. of the Manchurian frontier today. This spearhead of the U.S. Seventh Division drove through the walled city of Kapsan and pushed 14 kms. up the road before halting.

Americans Awaiting Centurion Tanks

SEOUL, Sunday (Reuter). — Britain's eagerly awaited new monster tank, the 52-ton Centurion, will be the heaviest used by the United Nations forces in Korea.

"I believe it is the best tank in the world," Major-General Robert Grey, Commander of the American First Cavalry Division, said. "From all reports it is better than the Josef Stalin heavy tank."

The 28th British brigade which recently arrived in Korea has the 4th Hussars regiment in support, which is equipped with the Centurion.

The American M26 tank, a modified version of the General Patton, weighing 43 tons, has previously been the heaviest U.N. tank in Korea. The heaviest tank yet used by the Communists has been the T34, weighing 35 tons. (14 Centurions have just been delivered to Egypt by Britain).

The advancing troops and tanks should have been sitting ducks since they could not see the ambush, but two of the Koreans became panicky when they saw the big Sherman tanks lumbering along. They jumped out of their foxholes and started running up the bluff. That alerted the Americans, who trained their guns against the bluff and began firing. The tanks churned through the stream, heading for the Korean positions.

Nepal Congress May Evacuate Capital

NEW DELHI, Sunday (Reuter). — Birganj, the seat of the Nepalese Congress "provisional government," will be evacuated tomorrow, unless fresh ammunition is received, the Press Trust of India reported from there tonight.

The Congress today ordered its forces to withdraw to Birganj from Parwanipur, 10 kilometres northeast of the Congress capital.

Yesterday, they fell back 10 kms. from Jitpur to Parwanipur before advancing Nepalese state troops.

Nepalese government forces today shot down 20 and wounded 60 Congress troops. 5,000 of whom were storming an armoury in the town of Gaur, 50 kms. east of Birganj. The Congress sources stated in Aina.

China Brings Up Heavy Armour, Uses North Koreans As Shield

By Frank Robertson
Cabled to The POST

TOKYO, Sunday (OFNS). — The Chinese Communist forces in Korea used tanks and artillery on the western front for the first time this week, indicating that the Chinese have been continuing to build up their strength in North Korea during the defensive attitude they have been displaying on this front during the past week.

The U.N. Command Intelligence believes that the first Chinese units came across the Yalu River in mid-October lightly equipped and relying on the mobility and infiltration tactics that General Lin Piao — China's top tactician — and other generals exploited so successfully against the Nationalists during the greater part of the Chinese Civil War.

Now, however, the Chinese and North Korean Communist forces have been supplied with new armour, artillery and large-calibre mortars, some of which were used for the first time in the Korean war last week-end. This equipment included heavy artillery, pieces perhaps American 155s or Japanese 150s of which the Communists captured large numbers during the Chinese war.

Also used by the Communists in the harassing attacks on the U.N. forces were formidable 120-millimetre mortars, presumably of Russian manufacture. A number of these mortars had, however, been used by the North Koreans.

Halperin Resigns Agriculture Post

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — Mr. Haim Halperin, Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, today tendered his resignation to Mr. Pinhas Lubliner, the Minister.

He met Mr. Lubliner later today to discuss arrangements for the interim working of the Ministry. He will leave the post at the end of the year.

The reasons for Mr. Halperin's resignation are said to be differences of opinion between himself and the Government. Mr. Halperin is opposing the incorporation into the Ministry of the Supply and Rationing Department, basing his attitude on his agricultural experience and the organization of agricultural ministries in other countries.

He is understood to consider that rationing is a day-to-day matter, while agriculture requires long range planning.

It is understood that Mr. Halperin, who joined the Government service two and a half years ago, had been dissatisfied for the past year, and had repeatedly tried to resign.

Mr. Halperin came to Palestine from Russia 27 years ago and has been working for the country's agricultural development ever since. Before joining Government service, he was Secretary-General of the Agricultural Centre of the Histadrut.

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OPENING TODAY.

The Traditional Ball
of the Medical Association in Tel Aviv.

under the gracious patronage of the wife of the President, Dr. VERA WEIZMANN, will take place on Thursday, November 23, 1950, at the Sharon Hotel in Herta.

Three orchestras, including the famous and enlarged Mandelbaum orchestra, will entertain the guests.

Advance sale of tickets and reservation of tables at the Medical Association's Office, 4 Yehon St., Tel Aviv, between 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. — Koppel Taxi Service, 4 Tchernichovsky St., (Bralet St.) near Allenby Rd., will be at the disposal of the public as from 8 p.m.

Official opening of the Ball and of the new dancing hall at 9 p.m.

The Search Bureau	108771
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THE JERUSALEM POST

Founded on The Palestine Post in 1948. Published daily except on Saturdays, in Jerusalem, by The Jerusalem Post Ltd., registered at the G.P.O.

Founder and Editor: Gershon Agron (on leave). Managing Editor: Ted R. Lewis. Editorial Office: 6, Mea Shearim, 9 Rehov Mahavazeth, Jerusalem. P.O.B. 11, Tel. 4211 (4 lines). Tel. Aviv: 2222. Subscriptions: P.O.B. 112, Tel. 4211 (2 lines). Mail: 1, Chayot St. P.O.B. 11, Tel. 4211 (2 lines).

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Subscription: IL.500 p.a. in Israel. \$10.00 p.a. abroad. Advertising rates on request. The Post is not responsible for changes in the wording of advertisements or for postponement of advertisements when space is not available.

Monday, November 26, 1956
Number 11, 5711. Staff: 18, 1778

THE first Hanukkah candles will be lit in 13 days. All over Israel the children are looking forward to the "Feast of Lights," for it is primarily a children's holiday. And all over the country there will be parties and presents, with the exception of one very important section—the new immigrants. Very few children in the Ma'abarot will receive Hanukkah presents from their parents. So their first Hanukkah in Israel promises to be dull when it should be especially joyous. That is why The Jerusalem Post, together with the "Saad Home Aid Society," is launching a toy campaign. Our aim is to give each child in the camps a toy for Hanukkah.

A toy from a more fortunate child to a child in the camps is a modest way of sending a Hanukkah greeting. But we are not only concerned with giving these youngsters a first encounter with the delights of teddy bears, dolls and marbles, crayons and rocking horses. We hope also that these gifts will serve to show the inhabitants of the Ma'abarot that the whole population of the country is actively interested in their welfare.

To promote this campaign, we appeal to the children themselves, the children in the cities and of the villages to send a present of a toy; we ask their parents and teachers to explain to them the importance of the campaign; to persuade them to make the sacrifice—and it is a real wrench—of parting with a favourite toy.

This week the Army is sending out sanitation squads, medical teams and engineers to clean up the immigrant camps. The Army will supervise the digging of canals to divert torrents and will also organize supplies, transportation and entertainment to make the winter months easier for the immigrants. Some of the children from the Ma'abarot will be taken care of by the Army during the coming winter. However, many children under six and many older ones will spend Hanukkah under canvas.

To brighten their holiday, we appeal to the youth. We want toys for Hanukkah from the children for the children.

SIDNEY STANLEY is on his way back to Israel again will arouse mixed feelings amongst the population here. In England, the Stanley story received such a flagrant—and sometimes frivolous—publicity as to make the man somewhat of a picaresque hero. The Encyclopedia Britannica defines a picaresque novel as the "prose autobiography of a real or fictitious person; age who describes his experiences as a social parasite, and who satirizes the society he has exploited." Stanley, then, would make an ideal subject for an enterprising biographer.

However morally reprehensible, Stanley's audacious escapades captured the imagination of a drab, war-weary England. He talked in terms of Ministers and millions, and not only talked but acted on his extravagant words. In Israel his activities naturally aroused resentment. But perhaps it is healthier to regard the infamous little man with a smile rather than a sneer. True to himself he certainly is, for he lives by the doctrine of "It ain't what you do, but the way that you do it."

FLIGHT OF THE 'GOLDEN BASILISK' Mix-Up in Strategic Nepal

ONLY two weeks ago King George the Sixth was telegraphing compliments to King Tribhuvan, "the Golden Basilisk," of Nepal on the signing of a new Anglo-Nepalese treaty of friendship. And now the Golden Basilisk is a refugee, with his son the Crown Prince, in the Indian Embassy in Katmandu, the Nepalese capital; he is declared to have forfeited his throne, in favour of his three-year-old grandson.

So far as ruling goes it does not matter whether the King is three or forty-three. The Government of Nepal is much like that in Japan a century ago, where for 250 years the Emperor had been a figurehead and all power was exercised by the Shoguns. About 30 years ago the Rana family seized power in Nepal and have held it, by right of descent, ever since, the King becoming a mere lay figure. The real King of Nepal was the Prime Minister, Maharaja Sir Mohan Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana, but now his authority is threatened by the advancing "Congress" forces.

Rana Dictatorship
The extensive Rana family, supposedly descended from the Rajputs of Chitor who conquered Nepal towards the end of the sixteenth century, are of quite different stock from the hill tribesmen populating the country. The family holds every important Governmental post and its head, His Highness the Maharaja, is Premier by right of birth.

Nepal, wrote Marco Polo in the 13th century, "is little frequented by strangers whose visits the King discourages." So it is today. And as access from India to the valley of Katmandu (the principal part of the kingdom except for the Terai, a long narrow strip on the southern frontier) is confined to one extremely bad road traversing two 7,000 ft. mountain passes, the gates of the country are easily closed. Yet even Nepal cannot escape the fever of the democratic ambition which is convulsing Asia; and in 1948 a Constitutional Act was granted, to set up a two-chamber Legislature and a Council of Ministers, some nominated, some elected. The First Legislative Assembly was opened last September.

It seems, however, that some of the honourable members did not want to cooperate but schemed to subordinate the Maharaja to a system of popular government with King Tribhuvan as a constitutional monarch. The forces of the so-called Nepali Congress, founded in India by aristocratic emigres this year, have now set up a provisional government in the "occupied area" near Biratnagar. Although the Congress announced its support of the "democratic" monarch, the Golden Basilisk evidently had no wish to be a political football between rival groups. So he fled into the Indian Embassy and the Maharaja Premier—whose chief dislikes are foreign systems of government and missionaries—attempts to keep his feudal regime.

Chinese Threat
Nepal is a curious mixture of old and new, of a few superbly fertile and lovely valleys rich in flowers and many-hued birds, and tremendous snow-capped mountains dotted with villages peopled by rough primitive mountaineers. From these come the famous Gurkhas who, since the peace treaty that ended the war of 1816 between British India and Nepal, have provided some of Great Britain's best soldiers. They fought for the British in the Indian Mutiny (1857) and in both World Wars; they are fighting for the British in Malaya. And between them and their British officers there has always been deep affection and esteem.

In Katmandu, old things are new and new are strikingly visible. There are broad avenues, wide lawns, palaces of the nobles that faintly suggest a Georgian architect, quite a number of motor-cars, hundreds of bicycles, electric light, telephones. But there are no cars, all portage done on the shoulders of coolies. And away from the main streets lies a maze of narrow lanes, diversified by gilded, exquisitely carved pagodas.

Old and New
Another problem facing Nepal today is the Chinese invasion of Tibet. There are four or five passes to Tibet regularly used by Nepalese traders. There is not the slightest evidence that Nepal wants to be liberated any more than Tibet. One thing seems certain. Any Chinese "liberators" would get a much hotter reception from the Gurkhas than anything the Tibetans could offer.

The two treaties of friendship and peace, and trade, signed between India and Nepal last August were a cause of much satisfaction in New Delhi since they were regarded as helping to strengthen India's barriers against Communism.

While India now wishes to give asylum to the deposed King and his abundant family, she will not allow this wish to be used as a bargaining point in exchange for recognition of the baby King. If India does decide to recognize the change it will only be after she has satisfied herself that it is in fact constitutional.

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Photo by Iani

FEAST OF ST. GEORGE IN LYDDA
The Greek Orthodox Community celebrated with pomp and ceremony the Feast of St. George in the Church of that name in Lydda last week. According to tradition, the church contains the tomb of St. George. Priests from the Old City of Jerusalem crossed the lines for the occasion. Wearing the crown at centre is Bishop Epiphanius of Jordan.

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Winston Churchill's War Memoirs Stalin Approves Invasion of Africa

AS I told the whole story Stalin became intensely interested. His first question was what would happen in Spain and Vichy France. A little later on he remarked that the operation was militarily right, but he had political doubts about the effect on France. He asked particularly the timing, and I said not later than October 30, but the President and all of us were trying to pull it forward to October 7. This seemed a great relief to the three Russians.

I then described the military advantages of freeing the Mediterranean, whence still another front could be opened. If we could end the year in possession of North Africa we could threaten the belly of Hitler's Europe, and this operation should be considered in conjunction with the 1943 operation.

To illustrate my point I had drawn a picture of a crocodile, and explained to Stalin with the help of this picture how it was our intention to attack the soft belly of the crocodile as we attacked Hitler's hard snout. And Stalin, whose interest was now at high pitch, said: "May God prosper this undertaking."

I emphasized that we wanted to take the strain off the Russians. If we attempted that in Northern France we should meet with a rebuff. If we could gain North Africa Hitler would have to bring his Air Force back, or otherwise we would destroy his allies, even for instance Italy, and make a landing. If North Africa were won this year we could make a deadly attack upon Hitler next year.

This marked the turning-point in our conversation. Stalin seemed suddenly to grasp the strategic advantages of "Torch." He recounted four main reasons for it:

First, it would hit Rommel in the back;

Second, it would overawe Spain;

Third, it would produce fighting between Germans and Frenchmen in France, and;

Fourth, it would expose Italy to the whole brunt of the war.

Yours, etc.,
DR. GERALD CAPLAN
Jerusalem.

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I was deeply impressed with this remarkable statement. It showed the Russian dictator's swift and complete mastery of a problem hitherto novel to him. Very few people alive could have comprehended in so few minutes the reasons which we had all so busily been wrestling with for months. He saw it all in a flash.

I mentioned a fifth reason, namely, the shortening of the sea route through the Mediterranean. I also told him the changes of command in Egypt, and of our determination to visit M. Molotov in the Kremlin at noon in order to explain to him more clearly and fully the character of the various operations we had in mind. I pointed out how injurious to the common cause it would be if owing to recriminations about dropping "Sledgehammer" (an assault on Cherbourg and Brest) we were forced to argue publicly against such enterprises. He listened affably, but contributed nothing.

Before leaving this urbane, rigid diplomatist's room I turned to him and said, "Stalin will make a great mistake to treat us roughly when we have come so far. Such things are not done often on both sides at once." For the first time Molotov unbent. "Stalin," he said, "is a very wise man. You may be sure that, however he argues, he understands all. I will tell him what you say."

We all repaired to the Kremlin at 11 p.m., and were received only by Stalin and Molotov, with their interpreter. Then began a most unpleasant discussion. Stalin handed me a document. When it was translated I said I would answer it in writing, and that he must understand we had made up our minds upon the course to be pursued and that reproaches were vain.

Thereafter we argued for about two hours, during which he said a great many disagreeable things, especially about our being too much afraid of fighting the Germans, and if we tried it like the Russians we should find it not so bad; that we had broken our promise about "Sledgehammer," that we had failed in delivering the supplies promised to Russia and only sent remnants after we had taken all we needed for ourselves. Apparently these complaints were addressed as much to the United States as to Britain.

He felt that if the British Army had been fighting the Germans as much as the Russian Army it would not be so frightened of them. The Russians, and indeed the R.A.F., had shown that it was possible to beat the Germans. The British infantry could do the same provided they acted at the same time as the Russians. I interposed that I pardoned the remarks which Stalin had made on account of the bravery of the Russian Army. The proposal for a landing in Cherbourg overlooked the existence of the Channel. Finally Stalin said we could carry it no further. He must accept our decision. He then abruptly invited us to dinner at eight o'clock the next night. Accepting the invitation, I said I would leave by plane at dawn the following morning.

Yours, etc.,
DR. GERALD CAPLAN
Jerusalem.

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The Hinge of Fate (XXV)

—i.e., 15th. Joe seemed somewhat concerned at this, and asked could I not stay longer. I said certainly, if there was any good to be done.

I then explained there was no ring of comradeship in his attitude. I had travelled far to establish good working relations. We had done our utmost to help Russia, and would continue to do so. We had been left entirely alone for a year against Germany and Italy. Now that the three great nations were allied, victory was certain, provided we did not fall apart, and so forth.

I was somewhat animated in this passage, and before it could be translated he made the remark that he liked the tone of my utterance. Thereafter the talk began again in a somewhat less tense atmosphere.

From time to time he returned to "Sledgehammer," grumbling about it. When he said our promise had not been kept I replied, "I repudiate that statement. Every promise has been kept," and I pointed to the side-memoire I gave Molotov. He made a sort of apology, saying that he was expressing his sincere and honest opinions, that there was no mistrust between us, but only a difference of view.

Finally I asked about the Caucasus. Was he going to defend the mountain chain, and with how many divisions? At this he sent for a relief model, and, with apparent frankness and evident knowledge, explained the strength of this barrier, for which he said 25 divisions were available. He pointed to the various passes and said they would be defended.

All this part of the talk was easier, but when Harriman asked about the plans for bringing American aircraft across Siberia, to which the Russians had only recently consented after long American pressing, he replied, curtly, "Wars are not won with plans." Harriman backed me up throughout, and we neither of us yielded an inch nor spoke a bitter word.

Stalin made his salute and held out his hand to me on leaving, and I took it. (Next instalment on Wednesday. Exclusive rights in Israel owned by The Jerusalem Post and "Maariv.")

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